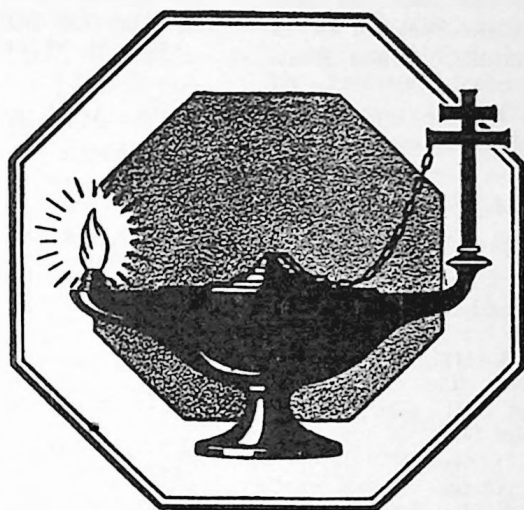


TOC H JOURNAL



JUNE—MCMXLIV

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TOC H PUBLICATIONS

All communications regarding publications should be sent to Headquarters, Toc H, 47, Francis Street, London, S.W.1. Postage is extra on all publications unless otherwise stated.

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- BUTTONHOLE BADGES, in strictly limited supply, are now available. The style and quality is governed by war-time conditions. All orders not previously filled owing to lack of stock should be repeated if badges are still required. 9d. each, post free.

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- THE TOC H JOURNAL. Monthly, 3d.; Annual Subscription 4s. 0d. post free. Supplied to Secretaries for free distribution among their members serving in H.M. Forces and among Services Clubs, etc. 1s. 0d. per dozen.

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JUNE, 1944

No. 6

ST. PAUL'S PRIVATE PRAYER BOOK

Besides a further instalment of his travel diary (p. 89), TUBBY sends us this month a talk on "Toc H principles in Colossians," written in February in the Red Sea and typed at Aden.

SINCE the first day, when tidings reached St. Paul that the small family of Christian faith and social love was founded at Colossae, the Master-BUILDER says he did not cease to pray for them. He, and St. Luke together—for 'we' is the word which he employs—asked for this little unimportant body certain great gifts, and here defines their nature. It well may be that Paul permits his readers to learn by heart what thoughtful suffrages on their behalf stand in his litany of intercession. Note that he does not petition for their immunity from persecution, although he must have sensed its imminence. Nor does he pray for an increase in numbers, or in prosperity or influence. His primary petition indicates that any deflection from the Will of God, through lack of study or contented ignorance, would bring disaster of a deeper kind. Thus Paul puts first the progress of the Branch towards the knowledge of God's purpose for them. Wisdom and understanding of His Will are vital to their life, in all directions. God is not only their cartographer, He is the Master who has set the course they must pursue. They must walk worthily into the way of life which gives Him joy. "Jesus pleased not Himself"—a pregnant summary, on which Paul dwells, when writing to the Romans.

"Into God-pleasing" (which is here employed to the Colossians) is from the same root. Man can bring gladness to the heart of God, by any honest effort to discover and to pursue His will. Churchmen are apt to scold unlearned persons who talk of the clergy as having "gone into the Church." But

does not the same misunderstanding militate against the cultured talk of "Holy Orders"? Paul would reject them both as prejudicial; for every Christian is in Holy Orders, having a Trust from God to be fulfilled.

Thus the Main Resolution of Toc H, which pledges every member to listen for the Voice of God, is a direct legacy of obligation, such as Paul prayed for the Colossian Christians. Millions are mourning throughout the world; but we forget that God is broken-hearted. He is the sorrowing Father of mankind, and wars and enmities among His children must darken the whole aspect of creation, groaning and travailling in their man-made affliction. He is the Judge. He will apportion guilt, and reward the proud after their deserving. Yet when a Father punishes, He pities; and angry nations cannot arrogate to their own verdict vengeance, which is His.

Now, more than ever, must we learn that lesson, when we have used the strength which God has given in ways which will avert evil ambitions, the lust of conquest, and of racial villainy. A liberated Europe is not likely to overflow with words of gratitude. What matter, if it can but be persuaded to turn from man to God, and learn His Will.

Bismarck was born in 1815. Had we not then so fully overthrown Napoleon's France, Bismarck could not have brought the Prussians from the East to dominate the German Union, which he brought about. Germany must now be humbled to the dust, but ultimately rescued from despair.

Despair produces very grave reactions; and we shall be more wise, when the war is finally

won, to stimulate a Liberal Germany, under the educational ægis of the Society of Friends, which has won its footing in Germany; and Chinese Christians must look on Japan, in ruin, as their responsibility for true rebirth, no longer based on the blasphemy of a divine Emperor. China must teach a down-and-out Japan the Way of Peace.

Sooner or later, those enormities which have convulsed the world twice in three decades will fade out into the past, and be forgotten; and what becomes forgotten is forgiven, once the chief criminals have paid the price.

In this vast circumstance of world-com-motion, our infinitely small, yet picked, Society has not gone under nor grown obsolete. Toc H remains indubitably eager, il-logically confident, and irrespressibly alert. It has lost thousands of its loyal members, and hundreds who were gifted to have led the movement in the anxious post-war period; when many a good ship, having ridden out the storm, will go down in the groundswell of disillusionment. By 1950, it will surely be a bitter, disappointed, bankrupt world, in which the Allies hardly heed each other.

We must, therefore, in our scattered Family, be very resolute throughout this period, to lean upon Paul's prayer for the Colossians. Not only must we wait upon God's Will, but we must train ourselves to bear good fruit in every good work. Practical investment of all our energies in Christian work must be the hallmark of our Family. Few though we still may be, the atmosphere created by a tiny fellowship remaining true to Christian obligations, a cheerful giver,

happy to be useful, anonymous against adver-tisement, provides a proof which can make cynics thoughtful.

"Leaping with joy to any task for others" stands in our prayer as a profound reminder of our first principle of unpaid service, ren-dered with joy and regularity. We learn His doctrine as we do His Will; and so St. Paul, praying for the Colossians, couples their Christianity in action with the increasing knowledge of their Lord.

He prays that they may be also empowered; that is, equipped with a peculiar sense that they are winning glory for their Master by every act of patience and of joy in well doing. Thus they will give thanks that they are priv-ileged to share a portion of the inheritance of the Saints in light. Their tiny and obscure society is thus caught up into the mystic whole, whereof the Body is the Bridal Church, with the Redeemer as the Peace-Maker, not only between nations, but be-tween humanity and heaven.

Yes, the Colossian Christians may have felt that Paul was mad to write like this of them. They were not conscious that their tiny num-bers and simple ways could justify his state-ments. Yet thus he wrote, and Paul did not repent. For they were true. Roman Society, central or provincial, was without social love. The obscure Christians became in this way most significant. The pagan world was struck by their sincerity; and that sincerity, as handed down, became a force of love in oper-ation towards the healing of a tortured world. Within three centuries that world was won. The practical mystic is the combination which knows its God, and therefore does exploits.

TUBBY.

New Toc H Publications

Everyone knows that paper and printing are difficult in war time, but we are able to announce a few additions to Toc H 'litera-ture':

1. *A Family Affair (a Study in Pastoral Opportunity)*, by Padre Shaun Herron. In-tended especially for padres. 12 pages. 6d.

2. *A Toc H Adventure in the City*. A

4-page leaflet about Toc H activities in a great commercial firm. Free.

3. *Entre Nous et en Famille*. A 4-page leaflet in French, introducing Toc H to our foreign friends. Free.

4. *Toc H Diary* for 1945. 2s. 6d. post free. Limited supply (partly earmarked for over-seas); orders in strict rotation; order *now*!

LAKO'S TOUR

THE HON. ADMINISTRATOR'S visit to India, made at the urgent request of Alan Cowling, our Commissioner there, has been safely accomplished, and he is well on his way home; by the time this appears he may even be with us at Headquarters again. He will, no doubt, have much to tell us of the work in progress, and of the prospects facing Toc H in the South East Asia Command. We shall hear of his meeting with Tubby, who was already on the spot. Meanwhile, a correspondence conducted by cable makes only the scantiest 'interim report' possible at the moment. We hear of him 'touching down' in the Middle East on his outward journey and catch a glimpse (in the *Cairo Toc H News Sheet*) of him talking long to Gordon Turvey, our Middle East Commis-

sioner, instead of going to bed and viewing the Pyramids from the back of a camel. He was booked, then and there, to speak, with Tubby, at a Cairo Rally on May 9th, on his return journey, and we heard from him, back again in Egypt, a few days before that date. He has sent home the welcome news that the Viceroy's Fund has made Toc H a grant of £13,000, to be expended on work in India itself. He has cabled home for an additional 34 men for the staff out East—and they will take a great deal of finding. This has become, rather rapidly, one of the main fields of Toc H service in war-time, and there can be no doubt that the Central Executive's decision to let 'Lako' view it—even upon the eve of great events nearer home—has been well justified.

THE 'BEVIN BOYS' AND TOC H

At an informal meeting of Councillors at the London Centre after the Central Council the suggestion was made that Toc H in mining districts had a great opportunity of extending its friendship to the boys directed to coal-mines by the Ministry of Labour. A well-known member, working in the mining industry, was present and has written this note on the subject for the benefit of all concerned.

EIGHTEEN-YEAR-OLD milkmen, clickers, bank clerks, students, farm hands, etc. are now at Mr. Bevin's instructions reporting at various Training Centres throughout the country to become Trainees or coal mining 'probationers'. After a month of intensive instruction they are being directed to Collieries for permanent occupation.

The Coal Industry is not an easy place in which to find oneself as an unknown, especially talking with the accent of a 'foreigner'. Where does Toc H come in here? One of our prayers says something about "the friendly to the lonely"! Here's a heaven or Bevin-sent opportunity.

In a Midlands Coalfield the Bishop of the Diocese caused each Colliery Manager or other responsible official to be conscious of the need for each 'Bevin Boy' and Trainee to be unostentatiously shown the direction to his particular Church or denomination (if any). So far so good.

The new boy, in new digs, and at new work, cannot spend all the rather long hours of leisure at the Pictures or Pubs. He wants friends, fellowship and home. Toc H can provide all this and in this Midland Coalfield, personal contacts are being made and interest in the boys cultivated. The local Labour Exchange and/or Billeting Officer are only too happy to supply information as to names and addresses. Toc H members visit the homes or billets of the boys, invite them for walks, take them to the pictures, and share home rations with them. Books are loaned, and local amenities such as libraries, educational centres, youth movements and sports activities explained. Some, even, are becoming so interested that Toc H meetings are being invaded.

What about it, Toc H? Now Mr. Jobmaster.

(We should be glad to hear further news of this job.—ED.).

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL

THE short sequence of Council meetings in the ancient College Hall at Westminster was broken this year because the Hall was in use for another Toc H concern—the 'Young America' Exhibition. The Council assembled on April 22nd in the convenient meeting room of Denison House, Vauxhall Bridge Road, a few minutes from Headquarters. A muster of 59 Councillors and 51 visitors, staff and otherwise, was present. Among the visitors was 'POP' KELLY, of the American Red Cross, who has since then gone home to the U.S.A. eager to spread Toc H there, and Col. COY (Toc H India), now retiring from the Indian Army. Padre GILBERT WILLIAMS conducted a short service, with two hymns, before the meeting opened. DONALD CAMPBELL took the chair. He paid a warm tribute to his predecessor in office, HARRY WILLINK, Minister of Health, and referred to W. J. LAKE LAKE (Administrator) and TUBBY, both absent in India: the Council decided to send messages to all three of these, and also to members of the staff who are prisoners of war.

The Hon. Treasurer Speaks

Items of statutory and 'special' business of the council were then disposed of more rapidly than usual in order to allow time for discussion on wider topics. The minutes of last year's meeting were signed; the Annual Report, presented by the CHAIRMAN, provoked very few questions. It was noted that the Lord President of the Privy Council had directed that our existing Central Council shall remain in office for a further period of one year. (This, of course, is due to the difficulty of a 'general election' in war-time).

Then WM. A. HURST rose, amid warm applause, to present the Accounts. The Chairman had already reminded the Council that Hurst had now completed twenty-one years' as Hon. Treasurer and had never failed Toc H with help and advice. Hurst himself, in a characteristic and genial speech, recalled the meeting on November 15th, 1919, at which Toc H was reborn and for which he got its

earliest 'prospectus' typed, and his constant connection from those first days. He recounted his close touch with Toc H on his travels in Canada, U.S.A., South Africa, East Africa and Egypt, and told the Council that he was about to retire from business, after over 50 years, and intended to devote much time to world travel, in which he would visit Toc H wherever it was to be found. Instead of discussing the Accounts ("you can't alter them now anyway"), he stressed the spirit which had achieved some wonderful things in Toc H and must carry it forward to new tasks. He was insistent on the need to build up now a fund for post-war work.

Election of Central Executive

The Chairman then proposed two resolutions connected with the election of the new Central Executive. Both were carried *nem. con.* They were:—

(1) That the Council confirms the decision of the Central Executive to extend to Padre staff the resolution passed at the Central Council of April 26th, 1924, ruling that Lay members of the Staff shall not be candidates for election.

(This anomaly has existed for twenty years. The reason for the ruling, which is a very usual one in societies and businesses, is, of course, that servants employed by a corporation ought not to be in a position of governing its policy and of making decisions often involving themselves).

(2) That the Central Council revert to the system of two lists of candidates for the Central Executive—one for London and one for the Provinces. (Councillors will then elect sixteen members of the Central Executive for 1944-45, voting for not more than eight candidates on each list).

(The object for the original decision was to secure a reasonable attendance at the meetings of the Central Executive. The 'London list' consists of members living in London, but not necessarily representing any local 'constituency' in Toc H).

Following an article in the March JOURNAL, many more nominations for the Central Executive were before voters than usual—15 on the London list and 16 for the Provinces. In the voting papers which had been circulated

with the agenda beforehand, a new suggestion made in that article was adopted, namely certain information about each candidate was given—his age, occupation, religious denomination, unit or Area, Area and District offices held, and other social work in which he was interested. Here are the members elected, with the details about them, which readers may like to see:—

London List: G. BLACKMAN (aged 49; Export merchant; C. of E.; Continental Team, Western London Area; District Chairman, Sec., International Relations Committee, Area Executive).

J. R. BROWN (aged 51; Secretary, Ecclesiastical Commissioners; C. of E.; Highgate, N. London Area; Area Executive, Central Executive).

D. S. CAMPBELL (aged 52; Banker; C. of E.; General and Services Branch; Joint Hon. Treasurer of Toc H, Chairman, Central Executive; Chairman of a Hospital Committee).

V. F. CARTER (aged 30; Accountant; C. of E.; Muswell Hill, London Area; District Chairman, Area Bursar, Chairman of Regional Finance Committee; Boys' Clubs and Camps, N.F.S.).

K. FRASER (aged 40; Chemical engineer; C. of E.; E. London Area; District Secretary, District and Area Chairman, Central Executive; Blind Club, Borstal Aftercare work).

[F. R. IRVINE (aged 45; Civil servant; Society of Friends; W. London Area (formerly Accra, W. Africa); House Committee of 'Blighty' (see *MAY JOURNAL*), African Students Welfare)].

(Has since resigned).

S. JACK (aged 42; Actor and Broadcaster, Civil Defence; C. of E.; N. London Area; Editor *N. W. Area Monthly*, Central Executive; Scouting, Church work, Chairman of Actor's Day Society, etc.).

G. T. MORLEY JACOBS (aged 40; Asst. Secretary, London Police Court Mission; C. of E.; S. London Area; District and Area Executive Chairman).

Provincial List: F. BARTER (aged 35; Incorporated accountant; Free Church; Portsmouth, Southern Area; District Secretary; Scouting, National Hon. Secretary of the Service for Economic Action, National Hon. Treasurer of the Farmers' Action Council).

S. V. BERWICK (aged 46; Building contractor; C. of E.; Sevenoaks, Kent, Surrey and Sussex Area; Urban District Councillor, etc.).

C. BROWNJOHN (aged 42; Royal Navy; C. of E.; General and Services Branch; District Pilot, Southern Area Executive, Central Executive).

B. T. DICKSON (aged 49; Buying manager; C. of E.; Maidenhead, Chilterns Area; District Pilot, Area Executive, Central Executive; Toc H activities at Unilever House, Church work, etc.).

M. DINWIDDIE (aged 51; Scottish Director; B.B.C.; Church of Scotland; Edinburgh, Scottish Region; Divisional and Regional Chairman, Central Executive).

D. G. GILMAN (aged 40; Solicitor; C. of E.; Markeaton, Notts., and Derby Area; Area Chairman, Central Executive; Voluntary Hospitals, Chairman of Ministry of Labour Hostel, etc.).

M. P. G. LEONARD (aged 54; Rector of Hatfield; C. of E.; Hatfield, Chilterns Area; Area Padre, Central Executive (formerly Administrative Padre, Federal Padre of Australia, Chief Overseas Commissioner); Scouting).

D. WORTH (aged 34; Bishop of Chichester's Chaplain for Youth; C. of E.; Kent, Surrey and Sussex Area; former London Marks Padre).

Ex-officio Members: P. T. B. CLAYTON (Founder Padre); W. J. LAKE LAKE (Hon. Administrator); H. LEGGATE (Administrative Padre); WM. A. HURST (Hon. Treasurer).

A brief outline of the year's work of the outgoing Central Executive was attached to the papers circulated to Councillors beforehand.

A Talk and Discussion

The business had gone through quickly and the tea interval came early; it gave time for the voting papers to be collected and counted. On reassembling the Council listened to a stirring talk by HERBERT LEGGATE (Administrative Padre) on post-war Toc H. This will, we hope, soon be available to all members in pamphlet form and we will not spoil it by attempting a *précis* here. About an hour and a half's discussion followed.

NORMAN BLAKE, as a West Country farmer, made a lively start. After speaking of the Women's Section, which must now be at work *beside* Toc H and not *behind* it, and about the giving of money, he applied his working knowledge of horses to Toc H—older members must hold the reins until the younger ones asked for them; don't be too humble in Toc H—you can drive a high-spirited horse better than lead it; always gallop a hill—set your young members hard at a difficult job, not plodding.

STEPHEN JACK, as "some sort of an artist," referred to *Artifex* (the 1934 Special Number of the *JOURNAL*), which dealt with Toc H and creative work in the arts. Toc H must always be creative. It must be quick to find beauty—in men's lives and in its job, as in nature and the arts, for in the trinity of Beauty, Truth and Goodness he believed the motive

power was Beauty. A later speaker also referred to *Artifex* and to the saying, quoted there from Sanderson of Oundle, "Vision will die away if it be not strengthened by the hardness of craft."

R. BIDDULPH (W. Midlands) thought Toc H ought to be planning for its post-war work by spotting the key-men for units, etc., and nominating future leaders. HERBERT LEGGATE interjected that the nearer we could get to the man-power the nearer to our planning. He did not want the plans to come from H.Q. but from among the membership.

In his talk Herbert Leggate had spoken of 'flexibility' and the risk of being tied down by the possession of much property. This question engaged the next few speakers in the discussion. A. S. GREENACRE (E. Midlands Area Secretary) thought that great centres of population needed a worthy building of their own, to be run on the lines of the London and Glasgow Centres. IAN FRASER (Scottish Area Secretary) gave some details of the Glasgow Centre, a shabby building, cheaply furnished and much used. MAX PETITPIERRE (London Padre) spoke of the London Centre as an instrument more 'flexible,' in his view, than a Mark. Toc H must be flexible in the hands of God and be ready to pay the costs of His demands upon it. TOM GOUGH (W. Midlands) said that Birmingham needed a Centre for visiting members, civic activities, and an Area office; a Welsh member wanted the same for Cardiff. SHAUN HERRON (Yorkshire Padre) warned them again of the dangers of holding property.

K. TUCKER (Pembroke Dock), saying he was 21 and attending his first Council, spoke for the younger members. He saw Toc H as a life to be *lived*. He said the true pattern was the small 'family circle' of Our Lord's disciples, out of which had grown the whole structure of Christian living. (His short speech was warmly applauded).

REG STATON (Bristol staff), speaking as a repatriated prisoner of war, reminded them that a small unit in Oflag VII C had grown into a large one; it had few rules but friendship was the key to its growth. After the last

war the nation's interest in returned Service men soon flagged, and he had found the same thing happening again with repatriated prisoners of war. The friendship of Toc H must not fail those returning now or later.

STAN BERWICK (Kent, Surrey and Sussex Area) thought too many of them were assuming that life could be resumed on the old lines at the end of the war. He foresaw very new things and much 'trouble.' He thought too many members accepted Toc H as an easy way of life, "a sloppy form of religion." Toc H must have more men in earnest.

H. C. WIGLEY (Manchester) said that not only must new members have vision, but old members must renew their vision. Those coming back would want to share in the planning, not to find it ready made.

W. E. EDWARDS (Monmouthshire) said his unit was discussing probation in Toc H. They thought that there would be too big an influx of men into Toc H after the war to make the old probation system workable. They wanted to put Toc H itself on probation and let men choose to join it only if they were satisfied with it.

BEN DAKIN (Chilterns Area Padre) said the leaders must go back to school. They must discover what they really meant by big words such as 'friendship,' 'family,' 'vision.'

BRIAN BILLINGS (H.Q. Services Secretary, late Australia staff) thought there was too much 'technique' in Toc H. Let's be ourselves!

BOB CANNING (West Midlands) was convinced that Toc H members must concentrate on their 'vocation' in their daily work and leisure, not on 'security.'

PAUL WEBB (Notts. and Derby Area Padre) said that 'flexibility' of organisation was not enough; we needed most flexibility of mind and spirit.

HERBERT LEGGATE summed up vigorously in a few minutes, and then conducted home-going prayers.

The meeting broke up about 6.30. After a meal a good many members went on to see the Young America Exhibition and to an informal gathering at the London Centre.

THROUGH THE CANAL

Tubby's *travel diary* in last month's JOURNAL left him in the hands of John Mallet in Algiers. The present chapter takes him to the Suez Canal.

QUITTING Gibraltar was a comedy of whispered words and breakfasts over night. My Commodore and signal staff, including an attached Vicar with progressive tendencies amidships, anticipated daylight by some hours, and climbed a Jacob's ladder into a freighter from a launch low in the water until relieved of my kit.



Tubby, Tanker Chaplain.

We found ourselves the guest of a Master with three ribbons for gallantry, and two grim episodes upon long trips in open boats, beside a third—a very sticky mine. Our host is now a member of Toe H; but no guest-night will get his tales from him.

During the week or more which now ensued, the Commodore and Captain had no sleep that I could notice. I may be old-fashioned; but bed to me is a pyjamaed period; and neither of them had the time for that refinement. Thus, with two very weary men indeed, we potted in most deliberate manner down Mussolini's inland waterway, paying passing respects to Malta and Tobruk upon our beam. The Med. was far from smooth. In winter aspect (apart from war's alarm) it can be forbidding, and the ship wallowed to her heart's content. Cargoes in wartime are not always stowed with the precision of experience. We happen to be carrying from

America railway supplies—huge crates said to contain boilers for locomotives and spare parts, as well as general cargo and some mail. This last is sacred in the common estimate; for we are hoping that some Home port ship has mail for us to find us in Bombay.

This ship left home in November and made the Western run. While in New York, her men were shaken in their old conviction that nothing could exceed the eminence of Middlesbrough and of Newcastle. True, New York was not homely. No one there smiled at the humming of the *Blaydon Races*. But their ignorance of that ballad was excusable, and formed no barrier to the crew's appreciation of a superb and open-hearted welcome. We have to reckon in the middle distance, when the reaction reaches its full flood, with the experience of the Royal Navy and of the British Mercantile Marine, both of whom have been admirably handled by many hosts in the United States, and have returned convinced that our alliance must continue to the end of time. Fibres of friendship which defy dispute will surely operate in times ahead. Sailors will very gladly stop the jaw of any nincompoop who thinks it clever to level shafts of innuendo at the United States; and the result with them is not less marked. Ambassadors need not be delicate as to the plus and minus of goodwill. The air and sea unite us to each other.

Ship's Library

At last we reached Port Said. The Commodore and all his signal staff here left the freighter, giving their Chaplain leave to stay aboard. After the manner of young Lochinvar, we did not halt, but brushed past M. Lesseps into the hundred miles of desert ditch for which a neutral Egypt, a Vichy-poisoned France and a dogged but war-weary Britain are jointly responsible. The canal was in a better state than I expected; and, by the time we came to Bitter Lakes, the War in Europe was receding rapidly, and warmth began.

One old friend came on board in the person of a Canal Pilot, who (with the Captain's leave) conveyed me shoreward to spend the night and to rejoin at Suez. I had it in my mind that by so doing I might replenish our ship's library—everyone on board had borrowed and redigested everyone else's books—and also see some unit of Toc H. The Canal Pilot gallantly took me to his home and still more gallantly presented me with two whole shelves—fifty or sixty volumes such as our souls desired—not only Penguins, but Everyman's Editions of English classics. Those who imagine that the taste of ships is solely or mainly for shoddy amorous adventure are far astray from actuality. Men much at sea read more discerningly, than any other class of general reader. Their tastes are catholic and scientific. They study books and weigh the truth in them, appraise and memorise and re-digest in a manner rarely imitated ashore. And it is to such as these that the shore public sends, or does not send, its cast-off magazines or pre-Darwinian tractates on man's origin. Yes, at the climax of our shipping shortage, eighty per cent. of the jumble of reading matter despatched to Scapa Flow was jettisoned. Periodicals discarded from the waiting rooms of provincial dentists are, for some obscure reason, regarded as appropriate contributions to the watch below of those who bring us our necessities. Ships' Libraries of genuine character have, in most cases, if not lost already, been housed ashore by orders of the owners until "danger's troubled night departs;" yet it is those same nights of long suspense when the consolations of good literature are most apposite. Books then become firm friends.

Amenities of Suez

Having thus bared two shelves in the Pilot's habitation, my despoiled host packing his precious offering, a Major R.A. telephoned his advent. He took the truant to his Brigadier, where I received an unexpected welcome; and, after supper, went with A.C.G. to view the hall where Toc H locally were due to meet upon the following night.

No one had yet arrived! That is the worst of having an efficient Secretary. I had been hoping that, by great good fortune, the date had been confused by some stray member. That is the worst of ships! Their date of passage seem always to preclude the gala night; and like the gentleman in fancy dress, who has dismissed his cab on a wet evening and rings the bell, it is a disappointment to learn from the shocked butler that your hired costume as the Merry Monarch needs to be hired again a fortnight hence. Evening and night and morning were, however, most profitably spent. My ignorance of Middle East since 1939 was qualified with various information, and I heard good reports as to the progress and virile worth of Toc H in those parts. I left the following day with a full load of games and books to catch my ship off Suez.

Upon arrival there, I found my mission known and approved by the authorities. We called upon innumerable firms of Shipping Agents, each of whom in turn disowned connection with my London owners; until at last we found the man we sought. Meanwhile, the eminent and most efficient Headquarters staff of Army Education provided lunch in a seductive setting. That most intelligent of British bodies, Y.W.C.A., who have not lost the pioneering spirit, put down or otherwise secured a structure which might be the ground floor of a big Bank. Standing surrounded by its outer works and by a terrace pleasantly planned amid a wilderness of sand-hills, this noble hall provided a cool lounge, and at one end an altogether admirable lunch. The flowers, the palms, the sense of friendliness, and the whole atmosphere of liberty about the acre of floor under one roof left an impression which remains with me. Here and in one more instance, that of Jobb's Garden on the Water-front in Aden, the modern need is met without a bar. Both of these valuable experiments, with their tremendous popularity, convince the student that it can be done. Why should so little good taste and refinement be exercised in furnishing and equipping centres intended to remind of home? Why should dull pictures and opprobrious orders hang at all angles? Institutes

create the very carelessness which they deplore by turning into grocery departments. Thereby the guest becomes the customer, and loneliness in crowds is more acute. If the hospitals of Christendom cherish the story of the Good Samaritan, the episode of the Emmaus Inn—a friendship leading to encouragement—should be the keypoint for all those who deal, in Christ's name, with the man far from his home. The blare of tinny music on the wireless, men in a mob, tables unappetisingly littered with mugs and merry periodicals, send men back to their camp in a sad mood.

Toc H on the Canal

Toc H has no Club premises on the Canal; but those elsewhere have a good reputation. At Suez, I succeeded (thanks to the Army Education Corps) in getting into touch with a few leaders, and I was glad to gather their reports. When any member hails from Peterborough, you can be sure he is no passenger. Toc H in those parts breeds tough pioneers, who thoroughly "disown discouragement." A Peterborough man is pivotal South of the Bitter Lakes on the Canal. He and a bloke called Swindell from Northampton Toc H somehow joined forces, and the two laid siege to three amused South Africans whom they won over in about six weeks. Then Padre Durham came. That made the difference; for they helped him in his new Area, and backed up his discussion *seminars*. Out of all this, the justly famous unit named "Roundabout" began, which drew from camps scattered round Suez. When this was succeeding, the Padre and eight members were transferred. Five now were left, and three of these were posted. The Transit Camp was practically emptied. So the remaining two (with an inspired disregard for the logic of the situation) opened a Toc H Room and carried on! Their invincible

spirit brought in Padre Walters, in charge of Welfare in the neighbourhood. After six weeks, starting with a bare room, they scrounged some tables and a mode of lighting. The Toc H Room was busy up to Christmas, 1943. The New Year saw new losses and new growth. So frequent are the postings in these parts, that the whole team are trained right from the start to undertake the diverse offices, and learn the ropes as Chairman, Secretary, Jobmaster, Pilot, so that they can take over anywhere. The average meetings (weekly) of Toc H Roundabout are fifty strong; and every month an interim report is introduced and criticised and carried. Circles are now encouraged in most camps. No man, however cynical, could fail to be impressed by the sincerity and humour of these men. They meant to win, and siezed the sheer fluidity of transit camps as if it were a challenge to their souls. Down the Red Sea, I brooded much on them; for I had seen the Kingdom surely coming, "though not with observation."

If only all the good that is in men would get into an organised condition under the Man who died for the whole world and rose from death to lead humanity, evil could be defied and overthrown. Guerilla warfare cannot win campaigns; and evil owes its period of triumph mainly to bickering and hesitation among the good, who constantly behave as if they were cut off, when they are not. They wear no badge. They have no uniform, a different thing from uniformity. Toc H is an attempt on a small scale to give at least a working illustration of good, well-organised in simple ways. It seeks to train the longing in a man to be of use, an unpaid volunteer, giving his spare time and his energies to the fulfilment of the Christian code of work for others, based on prayer for them, with understanding also.

P.B.C.

NOTE.—The Roundabout Circle, to which Tubby refers, was six months old in January. A report for that month, received from the Secretary, gives an idea of their liveliness. At the beginning of the month there were eight members and three passholders; at the end only one of each left. With the help of visitors they contrived to hold six meetings in the month—two talks, two 'brainstorms' (apparently a 'quiz'), a committee meeting and a discussion on 'Should wives have a legal allowance?', which seems to have been exceedingly animated. They also held a weekly gramophone classical concert.

Tubby at Aden

Actually, of course, Tubby, far outrunning his despatches, has visited India and is well on his way home. This glimpse of him at Aden, on his outward course in February, comes in a letter from Paymaster Lt. P. N. ANDERSON, R.N.V.R. :—

"I ran into Bob Watson" (*Warden of our Services Club*) "with a rotund little figure in almost American tropical rig, wearing a row of medal ribbons, with the cap of a British Merchant Officer jammed down at an angle, and smoking a weird pipe. Little pudgy hands occasionally scratched at his thick, almost white hair. Bob called to me and when I went over, there was none other than the great Tubby, the Founder Padre of Toc H. . . . He's been travelling in tankers and is now on his

way to India to Abadan and other oil ports to look after the interests of the unfortunate tanker men . . .

"On Wednesday evening Talbot House Aden's first birthday party was celebrated. We had fun and games at the House, and half way through the evening had 'big eats,' during which the Commodore and A.O.C. arrived with tiny Tubby Clayton in the centre . . . Like the Commodore (they knew each other as boys) Tubby likes talking, and has a wealth of amusing tales, interspersed with serious moments. He took Family Prayers at the end and no one, not even Bob Watson, has stirred me as much as Tubby did then. He talked away to God as if he was on the other end of a telephone and he was answering God's questions about the people in the room. Really moving and lovely. Everyone, members and visitors, was deeply moved."

At Teheran

Tubby, turning his face towards home, made an unexpected descent on a Persian 'Circle.' The event is described in an air-mail letter, dated April 15th, from Sergt. L. T. Luck of 'Paiforce,' to his father.

"You don't know what's going to happen from one minute to another these days," he begins, and goes on to tell how an officer came into the room where he was working on April 10th, saying, "You are the Toc H representative of this

"Wednesday evening arrived and the Lieut. called for me at the office and in a Major-General's car we drove to the modern station about three miles from here. The train came in and we saw a terrific mixture of humanity descending from it . . . Through a window I saw quite a large fellow dressed in black with a small *topee* on his head. As he turned round I saw that well-known face that I had seen in Toc H books and JOURNALS during past years . . . He looked rather aged but spoke quite a lot and made a series of 'wisecracks'; he kept the occupants of the car amused all the way back."



Tubby with Sergt. Luck (right), another member and Persian sheep.

Thursday night came. "The meeting was due to start at 8.15 p.m., and Tubby arrived about 8.30, all ready for the fray. The Toc H Lamp was well in evidence, and he was given a good welcome by the 30-40 fellows present. I introduced him briefly and he soon got talking, first of all on the subject of the 'Ceremony of Light.' . . . I have never heard such a complete talk on the subject . . . Then the lights were extinguished and Tubby led us in the Ceremony."

"Undoubtedly he has a soft spot in his heart for the Merchant Service. I'm sure he would have preferred to talk on that subject than on Toc H. Nevertheless, he eventually did speak on Toc H, the growth of the movement in India, the possibilities of Toc H in this city, the jobs that Toc H does. He also spoke of his thoughts of the Second Front; he made comparisons between the Great War and this . . . Tubby concluded with Family Prayers. We all gathered round the Lamp and remembered our Elder Brethren, our loved ones, and those working for the good of mankind around us . . . After supper we went our several ways. To all of us, especially to us Toc H members, it was a really memorable night . . . Even after his departure and his arrival in Abadan Tubby did not forget, for each one of us received a letter of thanks and gratitude and encouragement for the future of Toc H in this city."

city?" and announcing that Tubby was due to arrive in two days' time and they were to go together to the station to meet him. "It sure was a surprise."

That was the Circle's meeting night, with seven present, and they agreed to hold a special meeting, advertised in the local press, the various Clubs and the Army units, on the Thursday, the day after Tubby's arrival.

LAST HOURS IN THE OLD HOUSE

Lieut. ARTHUR DENYER (Guildford Branch), sets down, on the eve of the 'Second Front,' this record of the final scene in Talbot House, Poperinghe, before the outbreak of war.

I WAS the last in the Old House as 'Hon. Warden' before the war. Paul Slessor, I know, journeyed out towards the end of April, 1940, to do what he could about storing those things we loved, and no doubt others used the House during the early days of the war. But I wondered if it might be worth recording my experiences during those last fateful days in August, 1939. I am about to go overseas soon, and—who knows?—I may arrive at the Old House again. On the other hand there is always the chance that I may not come back.

Five years ago a small band, under the care of Paul Slessor, visited the House for a weekend's training before acting as 'Honorary Wardens' during the Summer of 1939. Our party consisted of Warwick Jackson, Paul White, Padre Moreton, Reg Thorndike, Fred Pile, Peter Walters and myself. I have often wondered how their turn of duty went and what they are doing now.

I relieved Frank Gillard on August 19, and he stayed on for a day or two and then left to broadcast from Western Regional some time during the next week: René, Alida and I were pledged to listen. On Sunday I dined at Skindles' with Brigadier Prower, Capt. W. P. Spens, M.P. for Ashford, Kent, and his wife and family. We discussed the situation. Capt. Spens at that time prophesied that I shouldn't be in the Old House at the same time next week. How right he was!

I remember that week well—beautiful weather, literally hundreds of tortoiseshell butterflies flitting round the arum lilies that René carefully tended, and everything perfectly peaceful. Taking tea in the garden in the sunshine gave no hint of war imminent. I firmly believed at that time that man could not be so foolish as to kill and desecrate again.

René and Alida and I listened that week to King Leopold's speech reaffirming Belgium's determination to preserve her neutrality. On

Wednesday evening I was at the Palace Cinema with Simone and Elaine, both of whom, dressed as soldiers, later escaped to England with the B.E.F.!

Then came Thursday, August 24. It dawned a lovely day. One or two parties arrived early at the Old House to see and learn. In the morning a wire came from my wife saying, "*You should return at once.*" I didn't understand its meaning, so I made a telephone call (not yet paid for, by the way!) from the Old House to my home. My wife explained that certain of my colleagues in the Territorial Army had been 'called up.' I assured her that everything was quiet, and that I would return on Sunday. A few minutes later came a telegram from Paul Slessor —"*Week-end arrangements cancelled, return London immediately.*" Things were beginning to move! At about 2.30 p.m. I was conducting a party of some thirty tourists (I think they had come from La Panne) round the House. I had them in the Lounge at the time, when a good deal of noise in the street attracted my attention. A fairly large crowd was collecting outside in a state of excitement. At this moment Alida Berat burst into the room, waving a telegram and shouting, "*M'sieur, m'sieur, State telegram!*" I opened it and found it was my calling-up notice to join my regiment, tersely worded "*Join 318 immediately.*"

The amazement of the party had to be seen to be believed. Questions were fired at me — "Shall we go straight back to England?" . . . "Do you think we should see the Consul?" It was a most dramatic moment. The crowd in the street was still discussing the fact that the "*Millionaire anglais*" had been recalled to join his regiment. Eventually they dispersed.

I then conducted the Ceremony of Light with the party I was showing round, and after that we climbed to the 'Upper Room,' where we all joined in prayer for peace. At

last they departed, and I returned alone to the Upper Room and stayed there a while. My feelings were indescribably turbulent; presently there came peace.

I left the Upper Room and went back to the Lounge, where I completed the Warden's Log. I have forgotten what I wrote, but it was a description of what had happened during the day, of how I had prayed fervently in the Chapel for peace in our time and a note for the next warden, whoever he might be.

Then it was necessary to find out how to get back to England. The next train left Poperinghe at 5.27 p.m. I shall never forget the scene—René carrying my bag to the station, nearly the whole population of Pop. to see me off, Alida in tears and I saying that I should be back in a week or two.

The train left at 5.30 p.m. In it I met two very charming ladies from Lancashire, who had been on a pilgrimage to the graves of their sons, fallen in the war of 1914-18, in the Salient. They were staying in Hazebrouck, where for me there was a five-hour wait before I could make a connection for Dunkirk. Then on to Dunkirk, where the first blackout was now imposed. The train-ferry left late, in a thick mist. And so to London, where I reported to Paul Slessor about 10 a.m. on Friday, August 25th. The last stage was to Guildford, where I joined my regiment.

So much water has flowed under the bridges since those days, but the memory of them does not die.

A. T. D.

NOTE: It may be added that Arthur Denyer has already volunteered to be first Hon. Warden when the Old House re-opens—a fine optimism which deserves to be rewarded!

With his record he sent to the Editor the ori-

ginal 'State' telegram calling him up, and a letter written to him in French on October 19th, 1939, by René and Alida Berat, our faithful stewards in the Old House—they wrote: "We have news sometimes from friends, members of Toe H, who are all employed or mobilised by the (British) Government. At present there are many (British Troops) at the (Belgian) frontier not far from Talbot House, and certainly there must be members among them, but it is impossible for them to come here to say a prayer in the Chapel or drink a cup of tea. Here all is quiet, but the House is dead. To-day we have had a visit from Padre Dye (*Chaplain of St. George's Anglican Church, Ypres, a former Arca padre*), and his wife (*they later escaped, with difficulty*) and two friends. Otherwise we see no one."

Latest News from Pop.

Our latest news about René and Alida is not reassuring. Alida had a slight stroke before the war, René has had one since and was partly paralysed. When last heard of, they were both in hospital.

Readers have already heard that the Swiss Consul in Brussels, at the request of the Foreign Office, visited Poperinghe to report on the condition of Talbot House. He found the minor damage (mostly broken windows), done during the bombardment of British troops retiring to Dunkirk in 1940, repaired. As the House was in the occupation of the Germans he was not able to enter it. He found that our excellent friend, the lawyer M. Lahaye, had removed all the furniture to his own house in Poperinghe for safe-keeping. The municipality of Poperinghe had paid to him a sum for the requisitioning of the House, and the Belgian acting as an agent for the German Army had also given a receipt for our property removed by him from the local bank. This was a small balance in money and '*objects de culte*' (religious objects)—presumably the Communion vessels from the Upper Room deposited there.

Honours

We congratulate the following members on honours recently awarded to them:—

Rev. KENNETH MATTHEWS, R.N. Chaplain of a Cruiser—D.S.C.

Flying Officer C. W. MATTEN, R.A.F., (Chairman, Worthing Branch), for devotion to duty in the Middle East. (Matten in his

two and a half years in the Middle East has been shot down or crashed eight times)—D.F.C.

Commnd. Supply Officer G. E. MORRIS, R.N. (Services Branch)—M.B.E.

JOHN TEARLE (Chairman, Wealdstone Group)—Ph.D. (London).

A MOBILE TEAM



AT various times we have heard tell of a Toc H 'Mobile Team' at work in the Middle East and now we have some pictures which show what it looks like and help us to imagine how it goes to work. The outfit consists of two vehicles, both 3-ton trucks, one fitted with a 'scrounged' Italian caravan body. These vehicles carry £1,500 worth of stores, including cigarettes and tobacco, chocolate, biscuits and 'hard goods' such as razor blades, soap, pipes, tinned foods, etc. But they are much more than travelling canteens. They not only carry a radiogram and loud-speaker which can give gramophone concerts, but they produce between them a Toc H Club, consisting of four tents, one of which, pitched apart from the others, makes a Quiet Room and Chapel and a place for Toc H meetings. And, most im-

portant of all, they carry a team of Toc H men, ready to 'do their stuff' wherever they are wanted. These men live 'on the job' and the job is often hard, but its value must be clear to every reader.

The first picture (top left) shows the crew with one of their trucks. Howard Lilley, of Cambridge, is in charge; he is seen on the right. The others, from left to right, are Alan Gallagher, a New Zealander, second in command; and Driver Ball and Driver Scholfield, lent to Toc H by a friendly Army unit. These drivers are not only skilled mechanics but are heart and soul in the work and ready always to serve the troops.

The second picture (top right) shows the camp pitched and the crew unpacking for work.

The third gives a general glimpse of the canvas 'Club,' the more distant tent being the Quiet Room.

The fourth shows the truck, with its Italian body, coming home to Alexandria in the evening from a visit to a unit in the desert. The track is the best available and easiest to negotiate by keeping in the tracks left by the tanks.

B. E. L. R. A. Notes

1. All readers interested in leprosy will be glad to hear that the BELRA B.B.C. Appeal on St. George's Day brought in just under £7,000.

2. The Director of Medical Services in Cyprus is appealing for a full-time medical officer to act as Assistant Leprologist to develop the work in a small settlement in Cyprus. Any offers may be sent to the Editor.

TOC H CELEBRITY CONCERTS

Some months ago there was brief mention in these pages of the very generous offer of John McKenna, the well-known tenor, to give concerts, with a team of first-rate artists, on behalf of the Toc H Services Fund. He had then begun with concerts at St. Alban's and Tunbridge Wells.

Concerts given at Northampton and Peterborough on March 9th and 10th were so great a success that Northampton wants the same artistes back, if possible, in the Autumn, with an orchestra. At Northampton, John McKenna performed with Olive Groves (Soprano), Florence Hooton ('Cellist) and Gerald Moore (Pianist); at Peterborough without Olive Groves. On April 23rd, St. George's Day, the third concert of the series was held

in the big Odeon Theatre at Scarborough, lent by Mr. Arthur Rank. The orchestra of the Royal Marines, conducted by Capt. H. Kenward, gave splendid help and Musician Sydney Wright, one of its members, late of the Hallé Orchestra, played 'cello solos; Nora Grünh and John McKenna sang, Mantle Childe played the piano. Ten days later concerts followed in Lancashire—at Accrington, Blackburn and Clitheroe on May 3rd, 4th and 5th, with Gaby Valle, Kathleen Moorhouse, John McKenna and Gerald Moore in the team. On June 22nd the flashlight turns on London, when Eda Kersey will be playing in the team at the Wigmore Hall. (All enquiries should be made to Mrs. Shaw, at 47, Francis Street, S.W.1.).

THE ELDER BRETHREN

ADAMS.—On active service in South Africa on April 4, GORDON (MARK) ADAMS, R.A.F., a member of Eastbourne Branch. Elected 29.10.'36.

APPLEBY.—On April 17, the Rev. GEORGE W. APPLEBY, Padre of Bishop Stortford Branch. Elected 1.5.'32.

ASHURST.—Killed in action on March 14, PHILIP S. G. ASHURST, Sigm., R.C.S., a member of Knotty Ash Group. Elected 17.3.'32.

BELL.—On April 17, Capt. A. BARRODAILE BELL ('Skipper'), a member of Weymouth Branch and Pilot of South Dorset District. Elected (in Rhodesia) January, 1927.

BURNARD.—Killed in action in Italy in April, R. G. C. BURNARD, a member of Ilminster Branch. Elected 24.9.'35.

FARMER.—On March 18, GEORGE FARMER, aged 92, donor of the Lamp of Ashby-de-la-Zouche Branch.

JONES.—On April 27, EDWIN JONES, aged 63, a friend of Toc H at Wolverton and a Builder.

MARLOW.—On April 16, the Rev. J. H. MARLOW, founder and Padre of Bozeat Branch. Elected 1920.

McKELLAR.—In March, by misadventure, EDWARD LIONEL McKELLAR, a member of Stroud Branch. Elected 1944.

PAUL.—In February, ARTHUR PAUL, aged 41, a member of St. Albans Group.

TANNER.—On April 22, CHARLES TANNER, aged 80, a member of Leytonstone Branch. Elected 3.11.'39.

WALKER.—In May, WATSON CURTIS WALKER, aged 66, a member of Trowbridge Branch. Elected 12.4.'29.

WISEMAN.—On March 14, GEORGE EDWARD WISEMAN, aged 51, a member of Harehills Branch, then of Leeds. Elected 19.1.'35.